

REMARKS

Entry of the amendment instructions above and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

At the outset, applicants' undersigned representative sincerely appreciates the time and courtesies of Examiners Gillespie and Sergent during the interview of April 24, 2007. It is believed that the discussions during the interview materially advanced prosecution of this application. The substance of such discussions is adequately reflected on the Interview Summary record of that date and thus further comment regarding the same does not appear needed.

New claim 5 has been presented above, support for which can be found in the originally filed specification at page 6, para. 1. Thus, upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-5 will remain pending herein for which favorable action is solicited.

Prior claims 1-4 attracted another rejection under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by USP 4,672,094 to Nelb. Applicants suggest however that Nelb fails to anticipate or render obvious the present invention.

In this regard, applicants note that Nelb relates to a process for increasing the molecular weight of polyamides by use of diisocyanate as a chain extender which reacts "...with terminal **carboxylic acid groups**." (Nelb at column 3, line 3.) In contrast, according to the present invention as claimed, the blocked diisocyanate is melt-mixed with a polyamide, polyester, copolyesters or a mixture of mixtures of polyamide and/or polyester having **amino or hydroxyl end groups**.

While applicants acknowledge that a carboxyl group contains an OH anion, it is suggested that those skilled in the art would not equate such an OH anion with a hydroxyl group. Thus, the polymers of Nelb which are chain extended do not contain a

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hydroxyl group as required by the claims pending herein for consideration. As such, Nelb fails to anticipate the presently pending claims for at least this reason alone.

Nor can Nelb render obvious the present invention. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to the accompanying Declarations of inventors Loontjens and Plum submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.132. As noted therein, the reaction of carboxylic acids with isocyanates is undesired since carbon dioxide is formed as a by-product. Gaseous compounds in an extruder can thus give rise to gas bubbles in pellets or even foaming which is highly undesirable.

Thus, an ordinarily skilled person would not be directed to the present invention in light of the disclosure of Nelb.

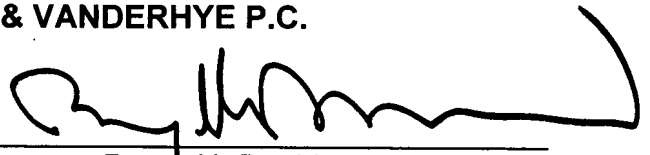
Therefore, applicants submit that the present invention is both novel and unobvious in view of the disclosure of Nelb. Withdrawal of all rejections based thereon is therefore in order.

An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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